



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
One Ashburton Place, Room 1109
Boston, MA 02108*

DEVAL L. PATRICK
Governor

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
Lieutenant Governor

JUDYANN BIGBY, M.D.
Secretary

Tel.: 617-573-1600
Fax: 617-573-1890
www.mass.gov/eohhs

November 24, 2008

Dear Chief Executive Officer:

In accordance with Chapter 182 of the Acts of 2008, Section 88(d), the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) is soliciting applications from hospitals and community health centers for payments from the Essential Community Provider Trust Fund (the Fund), established under section 2PPP of chapter 29 of the General Laws. EOHHS intends to distribute some payments as provider rates, and some payments under the provisions of 815 CMR 2.00. Providers do not have to file an application to participate in provider rate distributions, if any, from the Fund. However, providers must submit an application to be considered for grant distributions from the Fund.

EOHHS will authorize expenditures of not less than \$25,000,000 from the Fund for the purpose of a program to improve and enhance the ability of hospitals and community health centers to serve populations in need more efficiently and effectively, including, but not limited to, the ability to provide community-based care, clinical support, care coordination services, disease management services, primary care services and pharmacy management. EOHHS will consider applications from acute hospitals, non-acute hospitals and community health centers.

EOHHS seeks proposals that address maintaining or expanding behavioral health services and proposals that address the development of health centers as "medical homes". The additional criteria EOHHS will consider include, but are not limited to the following:

1. financial performance measures including negative operating margins, insufficient cash flow, technical bond default and the uncertain ability to cover long-term obligations, as well as potential for loss of critical community services
2. the percentage of patients with mental or substance abuse disorders served by a provider and other behavioral health issues
3. the number of patients served by a provider who are chronically ill, elderly, or disabled, provided that in the case of a community health center, that preference be given to the provision of a Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly ("PACE")
4. the payer mix of the provider, with preference given to acute hospitals where a minimum of 63 percent of the acute hospital's gross patient service revenue is attributable to Title XVIII and Title XIX of the federal Social Security Act or other governmental payers, including reimbursements from the Health Safety Net Trust Fund
5. the percentage of total annual operating revenue and funding received in fiscal years 2005 and 2006 from the Distressed Provider Expendable Trust Fund comprised for the provider
6. the percentage of total annual operating revenue and funding received in fiscal years 2007 and 2008 from the Essential Community Provider Trust Fund
7. the cultural and linguistic challenges presented by the populations served by the provider

8. a documented critical need for investment in information technology such as Computerized Physician Order Entry systems but without access to capital to finance such investments
9. the provision by a community health center of twenty-four hour emergency services.

EOHHS may authorize further distributions on an emergency basis to hospitals and community health centers facing extreme financial distress or closure upon petition from the provider.

Each applicant should complete an application and provide a brief description of their funding request that includes the following: The amount the applicant is requesting, the intended use of the funds, and a timeline for implementation of the funded project(s). In addition, the applicant will be asked to provide baseline outcome measures and target outcome measures that would enable an assessment of the success of proposed project(s).

Applications will be reviewed and evaluated based upon the above criteria. Distributions to providers may be in stages and recipients may be required to maintain supporting documentation of their expenditures. In addition to providing baseline and outcome target measures, recipients may also be required to provide future outcome measures and a report on the success of the award. The recipient will own any equipment purchased with these funds, and the recipient is not required to provide matching funds or in-kind resources. In addition, each grantee will be required to provide an executed Commonwealth Terms and Conditions, Commonwealth Standard Contract Form, an IRS W-9 form, certification of tax compliance, Contractor Authorized Signatory Listing Form, and other forms as required. These forms can be located at the Operation Service Division website at www.comm-pass.com.

Providers are instructed to return an application to EOHHS through the Division of Health Care Finance and Policy **no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday December 12, 2008**. The application and instructions are available online and can be downloaded from the EOHHS website at www.mass.gov/eohhs or from the Division of Health Care Finance and Policy website at www.mass.gov/dhcfp. Follow the link in News & Updates to the ECPTF Application. Once completed, the provider must submit the application, via e-mail attachment, to kevin.flynn@state.ma.us. Questions should be directed to Kevin Flynn at 617-988-3206.

Sincerely,

JudyAnn Bigby, M.D.
Secretary